

Advisory Committee on Water Resources and Quality of Water Supplies
Minutes of Meeting No. 5

Date: 18 September 2014 (Thursday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Water Supplies Department, 48/F, Immigration Tower,
7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Present

Dr CHAN Hon Fai	Chairman
Mr LAM Tin Sing, Enoch	Vice-Chairman (Water Supplies Department)
Dr CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard	Member
Mr LAU Yuet Fan, Ivan	Member
Dr MAN Chi Sum	Member
Ms TONG Po Chun	Member
Prof CHAN Lung Sang	Member
Mr YEUNG Wai Sing	Member
Sr WONG Bay	Member
Mr CHIK Wai Keung	Member
Dr LAU Wai Neng, Michael	Member
Dr WONG Siu Wing, Eric	Member
Ms LI Chun Chau	Member
Ms LAU Mei Lo	Member
Mr WONG Chung Leung	Member (Development Bureau)
Mr WONG Tak Wai, David	Member (Environmental Protection Department)
Mr SIN Kwok Hau	Member (Food and Environmental Hygiene Department)
Dr CHING Cheuk Tuen, Regina	Member (Department of Health)
Mr CHAN Siu Tack	Member (Housing Department)
Mr WONG Kwok Fai, Alfred	Secretary (Water Supplies Department)

Water Supplies Department Representatives in Attendance

Mr MAK Shing Cheung, Vincent	Assistant Director, Water Supplies Department
Mr CHAN Kin Man	Chief Chemist, Water Supplies Department
Mr CHAU Sai Wai	Chief Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr KWOK Wing Cheong	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr WONG Man Kei, David	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr CHAN Sai Kit, Eric	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Ms WONG Nam Ping, Melody	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department (Ag.)
Mr FONG Kai Leung	Engineer, Water Supplies Department (Notes Taker)

Absent with Apologies

Prof CHAU Kwai Cheong	Member
Mr WONG Siu Wai, Kenny	Member
Ms SO Yee Ching, Phyllis	Member
Dr LEE Ka Yan, David	Member
Mr CHAN Kwok Wai	Member
Mr CHENG Man Chung, Daniel	Member
Prof LO Man Chi, Irene	Member
Ms LAU Pui Yuk	Member

Item

Opening Remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives of Water Supplies Department (WSD) to the 5th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Water Resources and Quality of Water Supplies (the Advisory Committee). The Chairman announced that it was the first meeting of the new two-year term (i.e. 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016) of the Advisory Committee.
- 1.2 The Chairman informed the meeting that Prof CHAU Kwai Cheong, Mr WONG Siu Wai, Kenny, Ms SO Yee Ching, Phyllis, Dr LEE Ka Yan, David, Mr CHAN Kwok Wai, Mr CHENG Man Chung, Daniel and Prof LO Man Chi, Irene had sent in their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. Ms LAU Pui Yuk was also not able to come for the meeting due to other urgent commitment.
- 1.3 The Chairman introduced that the predecessor of the Advisory Committee was the Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies. In response to the growing expectations of the public on the conservation and management of water resources, the Government had extended the scope of the Advisory Committee from 1 April 2012 to cover water resources-related issues in addition to the quality of water supplies in Hong Kong. He remarked that it was a great honour for him to be re-appointed as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for another term. He invited all Members and representatives of WSD to work together with him as a team and advise the Government on matters relating to water resources and quality of water supplies.
- 1.4 The Chairman expressed special thanks to the seven retired Members including, Ms WONG Pik Yan, Nicole, Dr SHIN Kam Shing, Paul, Mr POON Lock Kee, Rocky, Ms WONG Wai Lan, Luciana, Ms MOK Ka Han, Rosanda, Ms SIU Ka Yi and Ms LAU Kwai Yung for their contribution in the past.

- 1.5 The Chairman welcomed nine new Members for joining the Advisory Committee, including Prof LO Man Chi, Irene, Mr YEUNG Wai Sing, Sr WONG Bay, Mr CHIK Wai Keung, Dr LAU Wai Neng, Michael, Dr WONG Siu Wing, Eric, Ms LI Chun Chau, Ms LAU Mei Lo and Ms LAU Pui Yuk.
- 1.6 The Chairman also informed the meeting that Mr WONG Tak Wai, David had replaced Mr TANG Kin Fai as the representative of Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The Chairman expressed special thanks to Mr TANG for his contribution in the past and welcomed Mr WONG for attending the meeting for the first time.
- 1.7 The Chairman extended his welcome to the representatives of WSD for attending the meeting, in particular Mr CHAU Sai Wai who was the Chief Engineer of WSD and Ms WONG Nam Ping, Melody who was attending the meeting on behalf of Mr PANG Kwok Fan, Gabriel as the secretary of the Working Group (WG) on Water Resources.
- 1.8 As there were new Members attending the meeting for the first time, all attendees including the Chairman took turns to introduce themselves around the table.
- 1.9 The Chairman reminded Members about the requirements in respect of declaration of interests stipulated in the guidelines: “Declaration of Interests by Members of Public Sector Advisory and Statutory Bodies – Guidelines for a One-tier Reporting System”, which had been distributed to Members by post (for non-official members) or email (for official members) on 28 March 2014.
- 1.10 The Chairman then gave an introduction to the background and the work of the Advisory Committee.

Agenda Items

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 4th Meeting held on 25 March 2014

- 2.1 The Chairman said that the draft minutes of the 4th Meeting had been circulated to Members of the last term and no comment was received before the meeting. There being no further amendment proposed at the meeting, the Chairman announced that the latest draft minutes of the 4th Meeting were confirmed.

Matters Arising

3 Core Membership for Working Groups

- 3.1 The Chairman invited Mr WONG Kwok Fai, Alfred of WSD to report the progress on the core membership for WGs. Mr WONG reported that an

invitation email listing out the “objective/terms of reference” and the “approximated frequency of meetings” of each WG, to seek Members’ advice on which WG(s) that they would like to join as a core member was issued to all Members on 1 April 2014. Mr WONG added that the core membership lists for WGs were sent to the Chairman and the respective Chairpersons for information on 24 April 2014.

4 Quality of Water in Buildings

4.1 The Chairman invited Mr CHAN Sai Kit, Eric of WSD to brief Members on the progress of the “Quality Water Recognition Scheme for Buildings” (QWRSB) and “Flushing Water Plumbing Quality Maintenance Recognition Scheme” (FWPQMRS).

WSD

4.2 Mr CHAN Sai Kit, Eric reported that there had been continuous increase in the no. of buildings joining the QWRSB and FWPQMRS. The no. of valid certificates up to end July 2014 had increased to 3,888 (QWRSB) and 991 (FWPQMRS) and the no. of households enjoying the schemes had increased to about 1.18 million (QWRSB) and about 0.2 million (FWPQMRS).

4.3 Mr LAM Tin Sing, Enoch suggested that the titles of the two schemes should be revised in a simpler and more consistent way given their similar nature. With the change of titles, it might be a good timing to review the application clauses of the schemes as well. In addition, noting that the responses to the two schemes in private buildings were better than those in government buildings, Mr LAM suggested reviewing the procedures and requirements of the schemes’ applications by adopting a more flexible approach. Mr LAM said that these suggestions would be further discussed with Members in the upcoming meeting(s) of the WG on Quality of Water in Buildings and encouraged Members to share their comments/views in the forthcoming discussion.

WSD

4.4 Sr WONG Bay enquired about WSD’s overall strategic plan for the implementation of the schemes and asked whether WSD was satisfied with the progress on the participation of the schemes. Mr LAM Tin Sing, Enoch reported that WSD introduced the schemes to the building owners through promoting the importance on proper maintenance of the internal plumbing system and providing incentives and technical supports to them. Mr LAM said that the schemes were planned to gradually cover all households in Hong Kong stage by stage. Following the brief introduction of the Water Intelligent Network project to Members, Mr LAM suggested that the schemes might also be considered to include water leakage in addition to water quality in future. Sr WONG Bay expressed support to the proposal.

5 Publication of Water Quality Data

5.1 The Chairman invited Mr CHAN Kin Man of WSD to report the progress on the publication of water quality data of Dongjiang water received in Hong Kong at Muk Wu Pumping Station and that of the drinking water supply in

Hong Kong. Mr CHAN reported that the WG on Publication of Water Quality Data had met on 9 June 2014 to endorse the water quality data for the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. The data were then uploaded to WSD's website on 19 June 2014.

5.2 Mr CHAN Kin Man also reported that the quality of both Dongjiang water and drinking water had complied with the national standard set out for Type II waters in the "Environmental Quality Standards for Surface Water, GB3838-2002" and the World Health Organization's (WHO's) "Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality, 2011" respectively in the said period.

5.3 Mr CHAN Kin Man informed the meeting that the next publication of updated water quality data from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014 would be scheduled for October 2014 after endorsement by the WG.

WSD

5.4 In response to the comment raised by Prof CHAN Lung Sang in the last meeting, Mr CHAN Kin Man reported that sample graphic plots for selected parameters had been prepared for illustration and discussion at the forthcoming meeting of the WG on Publication of Water Quality Data.

[Post-meeting note: Mr CHAN presented the sample graphic plots for some selected chemical, microbiological and radiological parameters of drinking water supply for the period from April 2009 to March 2014 at the 28th meeting of the WG on Publication of Water Quality Data held on 9 October 2014.]

5.5 Dr CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard expressed his appreciation to WSD in arranging a visit to Muk Wu Pumping Station and Ngau Tam Mei Water Treatment Works for Members on 30 July 2014.

6 Visit to Guangdong

6.1 The Chairman invited Mr MAK Shing Cheung, Vincent of WSD to report the progress of the visit to Dongjiang water supply system. Mr MAK reported that taking the views on the visit to the Dongjiang water supply system from Members in the last meeting, the visit was planned to be held during 13 to 14 October 2014. Having considered the concerns of Members on the quality of Dongjiang water and that many Members newly joining the Advisory Committee, Mr MAK proposed that the preliminary itinerary would include visits to, inter alia, the Dong-shen dedicated aqueduct, the Dongjiang Water Quantity and Quality Monitoring and Control System and the alleged pollution spot as reported by the media last year. Mr MAK invited Members to propose other spots that they would like to visit, so as to facilitate WSD in finalizing the itinerary with the Guangdong authorities.

WSD

6.2 Prof CHAN Lung Sang enquired whether the Advisory Committee was the author to issue the visit report. The Chairman said that it had been the practice that WSD, as the secretariat of the Advisory Committee, prepared the draft report and then circulated to all participated Members for comment before publication. Mr WONG Kwok Fai, Alfred supplemented that the final

report incorporated with Members' comments would be uploaded to the Advisory Committee's website for public viewing and thus the Advisory Committee was the author of the report.

7 Use of Reclaimed Water

7.1 The Chairman invited Mr MAK Shing Cheung, Vincent to brief Members on the progress in respect of the use of reclaimed water. Mr MAK reported that the draft consultancy brief for engaging a consultant to develop the charging scheme and legal framework for the supply of reclaimed water was under preparation. The consultant selection process was intended to start in end 2014/early 2015.

WSD

7.2 The Chairman said that consumers living in the areas solely supplied with charged fresh water for flushing might feel unfair as seawater for flushing was supplied to over 80% of the population free of charge. Mr LAM Tin Sing, Enoch responded that the consultant to be engaged would be required to study and develop the charging scheme of reclaimed water with due considerations of charging of seawater for flushing.

7.3 Dr MAN Chi Sum enquired whether consumers could still continue to use fresh water for flushing by paying water charges even though they were supplied with seawater. Mr LAM Tin Sing, Enoch replied that WSD encouraged consumers to use seawater, if available, for flushing so as to save the precious fresh water resource. Mr LAM added that WSD had the authority to suspend the fresh water supply for flushing if seawater was supplied to consumers.

7.4 Sr WONG Bay supported the proposal of using reclaimed water for flushing and also enquired the feasibility of carrying out some chemical treatments to the seawater to neutralize its chloride content and harmful effects to the concrete building structure and the surrounding finishes with a view to reducing the maintenance expenses of concrete buildings. Currently the industry was spending a huge sum of money in arresting chloride in concrete buildings and repairs to its damages. The Chairman said that the use of seawater for flushing was beneficial to the society as it helped reduce the demand on fresh water for flushing. To minimise the impact on building maintenance arising from the use of seawater for flushing, the Chairman suggested that inside services of salt water systems for buildings should be properly maintained.

7.5 Dr LAU Wai Neng, Michael asked whether any other sewage treatment works over the territory of Hong Kong had the same level of treatment standard to that of Shek Wu Hui Sewage Treatment Works. The Chairman said that as far as he knew, except the tertiary sewage treatment works in Ngong Ping which was only very small in scale, there should be no other sewage treatment works with such a high treatment standard. Mr LAM Tin Sing, Enoch supplemented that the area in the northeast New Territories was currently using fresh water for flushing and hence a change to use treated sewage

effluent for flushing would save fresh water. Furthermore, the standard of sewage treatment in this area was very stringent in order to meet the discharge requirement for Deep Bay.

8 Water Conservation Campaign for Primary Schools

8.1 The Chairman invited Mr WONG Man Kei, David of WSD to brief the meeting on the progress of the water conservation campaigns for primary schools. Mr WONG reported that -

WSD

- (a) A total of 73 roadshows were conducted in primary schools in the school year 2013/14.
- (b) Certificate Presentation Ceremony for Water Conservation Ambassador Selection Scheme 2013/14 was held on 11 July 2014.

8.2 Mr WONG Man Kei, David reported that award presentation ceremony for “Cherish Water Resources” Waterworks Installations Drawing Competition was held on 14 June 2014.

9 The Hong Kong Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS)

9.1 The Chairman invited Mr MAK Shing Cheung, Vincent to brief the meeting on the progress of the implementation of WELS. Mr MAK reported that -

WSD

- (a) Registration of showers under WELS had commenced in September 2009. Up to end August 2014, 203 models had been registered.
- (b) Registration of water taps under WELS had commenced in September 2010. Up to end August 2014, 150 models had been registered.
- (c) Registration of washing machines under WELS had commenced in March 2011. Up to end August 2014, 272 models had been registered.
- (d) Registration of urinal equipment under WELS had commenced in March 2012. Up to end August 2014, 29 models had been registered.
- (e) WELS on flow controllers was officially launched on 7 August 2014.

10 Working Group on Water Resources

10.1 The Chairman invited Ms WONG Nam Ping, Melody of WSD to report the work of the WG on Water Resources.

10.2 Ms WONG Nam Ping, Melody reported that -

WSD

- (a) The 4th meeting of the WG on Water Resources was held on 30 April 2014.
- (b) WG on Water Resources endorsed in its 4th WG meeting that a task force

would be formed to oversee the pilot scheme of installing flow controllers in selected private residential estates. Details of the pilot scheme and the associated task force would be discussed in another item of the meeting.

- (c) A site visit to water recycling facilities, including membrane sewage recycling system at “Zero Carbon Building” and rainwater harvesting system at DSD’s Kowloon City No. 1 Sewage Pumping Station, was conducted for Members on 25 June 2014.

11 Development of the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O

- 11.1** The Chairman invited Mr KWOK Wing Cheong of WSD to brief the meeting on the progress of the desalination project. Mr KWOK reported that the Consultants, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited, was engaged to carry out a feasibility study on the proposed desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. The consultancy commenced on 31 December 2012 for completion in early 2015. The feasibility study was in progress and various detailed investigation works such as site investigation works, traffic impact, drainage impact assessment etc. were being carried out. EPD had issued Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study Brief in January 2014 and the EIA was in progress. Mr KWOK added that the EIA report was planned to be submitted in end 2014 and the feasibility study was targeted for completion in early 2015.

WSD

- 11.2** In respect of the feasibility in utilizing brine concentrate generated from the desalination plant instead of discharging back to the sea, Mr KWOK Wing Cheong reported that the Consultants had looked into various concentrate disposal options. In view of sheer volume of the concentrate, discharging all concentrate back to the sea via outfall with diffusers which was a worldwide practice with proven long term experience was recommended. Mr KWOK added that impact on water quality due to concentrate discharge would be assessed and addressed under EIA. Dr MAN Chi Sum suggested that the Consultants should also study alternative methods to partly utilize the concentrate as the ecology system might be affected if all concentrate was discharged to the sea.

WSD

- 11.3** With regard to the presentation on the findings of the EIA to Members at a meeting of the WG on Water Resources, Mr KWOK Wing Cheong reported that the Consultants needed more time than expected to agree with EPD on the study methodology and method statement for the EIA study, and hence it was premature to report the study findings in early September as originally scheduled. Mr KWOK advised that Consultants would present the findings of the EIA in the WG meeting at a later date when sufficient discussion information was available before submission to EPD.

WSD

- 11.4** Prof CHAN Lung Sang suggested exploring the use of groundwater apart from seawater as the water source for the desalination plant, taking into account that groundwater having lower salinity would result in a lower production cost of desalinated water. Mr KWOK Wing Cheong responded that the Consultants had studied the feasibility of extracting groundwater for

the desalination plant. Result of the investigation reflected that extraction of groundwater as water source for the desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O site would not be favorable. Prof CHAN asked for the details about the findings by the Consultants. The Chairman suggested that WSD should collect the relevant information from the Consultants for reporting in due course.

WSD

12 Other major water conservation activities by WSD

12.1 The Chairman invited Mr CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas of WSD to report the progress on other major water conservation activities by WSD.

12.2 Mr CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas reported that WSD had commissioned a consultancy to develop Best Practice Guidelines (BPG) for water efficiency on non-domestic consumption. Mr CHAN reported that WSD would like to consult the relevant trades and stakeholders, firstly targeting at the three highest water consuming industries, namely catering, hotels and laundries before promulgating the BPG. Mr CHAN advised that WSD planned to start the consultation tentatively in early 2015, which would involve circulating information papers, conducting meetings and forums, etc., to collect and respond to comments on the draft BPG.

12.3 In order to monitor the consultation process and to assist in engaging the relevant trade associations, practitioners, green groups and academics to provide input and feedback on the draft BPG, Mr CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas reported that WSD proposed to set up a task force for each trade under the WG on Water Resources and the details would be discussed in the upcoming WG meeting.

WSD

13 Initiative of installing flow controllers at private housing estates

13.1 The Chairman invited Mr CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas to report on the follow-up action of the WG on Water Resources about the implementation of the initiative of installing flow controllers at private housing estates. Mr CHAN reported that the initiative was implemented jointly by the Advisory Committee and Green Power and Queen's Terrace (帝后華庭) with 1,148 households in three blocks was chosen for the pilot scheme. Mr CHAN added that the scheme was launched on 15 September 2014.

WSD

13.2 The Chairman enquired about the arrangement for interviewing the chairman of the Owners' Corporation of Queen's Terrace. Mr CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas reported that the interview was planned to be held in end October/early November 2014 tentatively, subject to the chairman's availability.

[Post-meeting note: The interview was rescheduled for March/April 2015.]

13.3 In respect of the selection of suppliers/manufacturers of flow controllers, Mr CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas reported that procurement of flow controllers had been made through invitation of three quotations. Mr CHAN advised that

the flow controllers had been delivered to the management office of Queen's Terrace for custody.

14 New promotional event by the ACRQWS

- 14.1** The Chairman invited Mr WONG Man Kei, David to brief Members about the follow-up action of the WG on Public Education on the preparation of holding the public forum. Mr WONG reported that a task force under the WG on Public Education was formed to organize the event and its 1st meeting was held on 14 May 2014. Mr WONG reported that the task force agreed to arrange a discussion forum on 25 November 2014 for practitioners from the Catering and Hotel industries to share their experience in water conservation. Mr WONG added that speakers and supporting organizations for the event were confirmed and the associated promotional activities were in progress.

WSD

Any Other Business

- 15** Mr LAM Tin Sing, Enoch said that WSD planned to have a discussion with the Primary School Heads Association to explore how to enhance the cooperation with primary schools in promoting water conservation in addition to the existing campaigns such as school water audit, school roadshows, water conservation ambassador selection scheme etc.
- 16** There being no further items raised, the Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.